

Battalion EDITORIALS

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1947

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

'Fifteen' for Freckles...

Freckles will do her last marching with the Aggie Band a week from today, and that is bad news to many people. For Freckles has become a popular dog—at least so far as those who watch the band are concerned, and though she is a one-man dog, whose heart belongs to Hal Mullins, she will be remembered here for a long time.

When a movement was started last year to elect Freckles as official mascot of the school, Mullins agreed to give her to Aggieband. But you can't do dogs that way! Freckles had been attached to her master for a long time, and was too old to change her ways. So when Mullins graduates, she will "graduate" with him.

In the meantime, by parading with Mullins and the Aggie band, Freckles has achieved considerable fame. Not another Reveille, she has nevertheless made a place of her own in the Aggie Hall of Fame.

What 'Mr. President' Requires...

What qualities must a man possess to be a successful President of the United States? Cynics might say "luck." But there are qualities of leadership which we find in most of our great national leaders.

Henry Steele Commager, writing in the New York Times Magazine, sets down six qualities, which we must look for in the man we elect next year.

"The most obvious is executive leadership. This quality every one of our great Presidents has possessed, in varying degrees.

"Whom is the President to lead, and where is he to lead? First, public opinion. There is no formula, but one generalization can be made with confidence. Every President who has successfully rallied the public behind his policies has done so by espousing the cause of liberalism and democracy.

"Each identified himself with some major popular issue: Jefferson with agrarian democracy; Jackson with the war on the 'monster' bank; Lincoln with the survival of the Union and later—and more hesitatingly—with the abolition of slavery; Theodore Roosevelt with Progressivism; Wilson with the crusade to make first America, then

'Off-Gridiron' Victories...

For years it was the boast of Aggieband that whatever happened on an athletic playing field, we were never without victory; for we always won the conference "off-the-gridiron" championship. This year, for the first time in several seasons, we can once again make that proud claim, and justify it.

Last Saturday the Cadet Corps and the veteran student body gave conclusive proof that we are serious in our determination to foster better relations with fellow members of the Southwest Conference. In Houston, as in other Texas cities this year, people were impressed by the honor and self-respect of Aggies, who could come and go, leaving the Rice campus unpainted, Sammy the Owl unmolested, and the police riot-squad untried. Instead the Aggies gave Houston a colorful exhibition of spirit and loyalty, conducting themselves as gentlemen, accepting a most bitter defeat in the most sportsmanlike way. We don't like defeats, but we can take them.

Advice for Preachers...

We wish all preachers would take the advice of Dr. Henry F. Webb, pastor of San Antonio's First Baptist Church and a top-flight sermonizer. Says Dr. Webb:

"Have something worth saying. The message of the Bible is both timely and timeless. Preach the word of God rather than the opinions of men.

"Preach with conviction and clarity. Preachers who live in a spiritual fog will leave their people in a religious haze.

"Be brief. Ordinarily, 30 minutes is long enough. We need more ideas and fewer words. It is better for a minister to quit preaching before his audience quits him.

"Don't take up valuable time making announcements that will neither be heard nor heeded. The pulpit is not a bulletin board.

"In the midst of the world's darkness, the preacher should be a shining light rather than a bag of gas.

"There is no law of God or man against

An anonymous letter, signed "ardent Freckle fan", asks The Battalion if Freckles is to be honored at her last game.

"Should the band salute her? Should they spell her name out across the playing field? Should the whole student body salute her? Should an issue of The Battalion be dedicated to her?" asks this writer, who appears to be a feminine member of the A. & M. staff. "In my opinion, all of them could not repay her for a job well done."

We don't know what plans the band has made, but this is our contribution in appreciation of Freckles. There will probably never be another dog who will adopt the entire student body, as Reveille did. We hope there will be other dogs who will learn to march with the band, as Freckles has.

Let's give "fifteen" for Freckles!

the world itself, safe for democracy; Franklin Roosevelt with a New Deal and when that had been achieved, with the survival of liberty in the modern world. Without a cause that touches the imagination and fires the spirit of the public—leadership will be frustrated.

"Another necessary quality is the elementary one of courage—and all of our great Presidents have had it—even Jefferson who was accused of timidity.

"There are other qualities equally important. One of these is flexibility united with firmness. It can better be illustrated than described. Some of our strong Presidents have lacked it—Wilson, most notably, and Cleveland. Both had firmness, but it was a brittle firmness; neither had flexibility, neither knew when to make concessions.

Of all our Presidents, Lincoln possessed this quality most fully. It is what critics call opportunism; it is what Roosevelt called the quarterback technique. It is a statesmanship that adapts itself to realities, that makes compromises on means in order to gain ends, that makes concessions to persons in order to preserve principles."

This was the fifth "off-the-gridiron" victory this year for the Twelfth Man. Led by smart quarterbacking on the part of student leaders, A&M has taken the initiative in all of these games toward restoring a worthy and more enjoyable rivalry among Southwest Conference schools.

The final "engagement" of the football year for the Twelfth Man has begun already. The "stay at home week" plan adopted by representatives of A. & M. and Texas University started officially on Monday and will continue through the period leading up to the Turkey Day game. This plan was chosen in an effort to eliminate the vandalism and misdemeanors that have blemished recent meetings of the two top state schools.

Should the Aggie student body, cadets and veterans alike, "play as good a game" Thanksgiving Day as has been played earlier this season, there will no longer be any doubt that sportsmanship at A. & M. shows in deepest form the "Spirit of Aggieband."

the use of sanctified humor. There is neither piety nor sense in a holy whine. A liver in good order will prove a valuable pastor's assistant.

"When you have nothing more to say, pronounce the benediction."

According to our Canadian correspondent the housing shortage and the consequent rash of crazy ads has reached as far as Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. An apartment ad in a recent issue of the local paper reads: "Wanted—suite for un-Christian, drinking, smoking, noisy, dependably undependable young married couple. Who will take a chance?"

With the paper shortage still on Salt Lake City (Utah) Telegram tells writers how to report their stories—like the marine colonel told his World War II staff officers: "Write stories like a modern girl's bathing suit. . . Long enough to cover the subject, but brief enough to be interesting."

The Battalion

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, Texas, is published five times a week and circulated every Monday through Friday afternoon, except during holidays and examination periods. During the summer The Battalion is published semi-weekly. Subscription rate \$4 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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CROSSED!



Trampling Out the Vintage...

Irish Lunatic in Inspector's Clothing 'Really Knows Job'

In Ireland recently, an escaped lunatic posed so successfully as a government inspector that farmers he visited congratulated the Department of Agriculture on "at last finding someone who really knows his job."

The lunatic made the round of farms in a taxicab after eluding guards at Grange Norman Mental Institution near Dublin. He talked farmers into lending him money and opened accounts at several banks. Then after several days of freedom, he taxied back to the asylum.

Science, wonderful science, has at last found a way to eliminate the ring in the bathtub. A new synthetic detergent, powerful enough to wash a highway and yet mild enough to be used in food or in a baby's bath, will leave no ring in the tub for the housewife to scour. It is predicted that this revolutionary new cleaning agent will usher in the "bright, clean world" we hear so much about.

In Baltimore, Peter J. Tringali gave way to the urge every driver has experienced and had to pay a \$15 fine in traffic court. Tringali testified that a big truck crowded him as he drove alongside. When both vehicles stopped at the next corner for a red light, Tringali got out and poked the truck driver in the eye.

Fred Gainer of Pekin, Ill., is keeping a close watch on his barnyard until pheasant season is over. A hunter, described by Gainer as "undoubtedly an amateur," drove into the Gainer barnyard recently, stepped from his car, and shot one of Gainer's fancy Rhode Island Red roosters.

Mrs. Gainer hurried from the house and protested vigorously. "Why did you kill our rooster?" she asked. "That's a cock pheasant," the hunter replied. "That, sir, is a rooster," Mrs. Gainer said. The hunter retreated, leaving the "cock pheasant" where it lay.

Zoo workers in Pittsburgh last week were struggling with the biggest stomach ache in the zoo's history. Gloria, an elephant, was laid up with chronic indigestion. To prevent the three-ton pachyderm from getting hypostatic pneumonia, his keepers have to turn her over, from one side to the other, at intervals, which, they say, is no cinch.

Typographical errors amuse nearly everyone but their authors. The ones about the "detective on the police force" and "the squad of uniformed police" are revered, but the prize one is about the Memorial Day parade of the G.A.R. The reporter called them "battle-starved veterans," but the first edition came out calling them "battle-starved veterans." Indignant protests brought the promise that it

: Letters to the Editor :

PROFESSORS?
 Editor, The Battalion:
 There has been some discussion on professors and their quizzes in The Battalion as of late, and I clipped this bit of information out of the LIFE magazine which I thought was worth passing on. I believe it is more truth than fiction and I also believe that such situations do exist here on our campus.
 Sincerely,
 E. C. Abrahamson, '48

to any question, sight, unseen, thrown at him. But in life the lawyer may consult his legal tomes, the physician can refer to his medical books. . . .
 Chester Warren Quimby, Visiting Professor English Bible Ohio Wesleyan University Delaware, Ohio.

MORE ON PROFS?
 Editor, The Battalion:
 Two letters have recently been printed by The Battalion protesting about the professors at this school. Certainly the protests are not unfounded.

But two facts hit me in the face as I read the above mentioned correspondence. Each letter assumed that the situation of which they complained was peculiar to the A. & M. College of Texas, and neither had any suggestion to offer except to get rid of "bad professors" or appeal to them to change their ways.

Is this a fair and constructive way in which to approach the matter? Surely most professorial shortcomings are caused by the

"Our own stupidity. Any professor who gives the kind of quiz that can be passed by cribbing off the curf, etc. isn't quite bright."

"What we expect from the student in an examination. All semester he has been toting thick textbooks in some half-a-dozen subjects. In addition he has class lectures and collateral assignments. No mind, however brilliant, can absorb so much information in so short a time. Yet the student is expected to enter an examination blind, while the professor, who has confined himself to one field, has all along relied on his notes. He would 'frunk' without them."

"The artificiality of the whole examination system. The student is supposed to know the answers



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normal expected variations in human behavior. Since most educational institutions require that their instructors be selected from the human race, I think it just barely possible that some other school might happen to have a few professors who are not perfect.
 As to the remedies—can we draw a sharp dividing line between good professors and bad ones and then ride the bad ones out on a rail? Why not investigate the situation with the idea of improving the teaching technique of all the professors? And the learning methods of all the students? Such a move may appear to be rather obvious, but I have a hunch that it might be unique among the methods practiced.
 (Continued from Page 2)

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 From the Novel by Kathleen Winsor

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